

REMARKS

In the Action, the Examiner designated 18 separate species characterized as Embodiments 1-18 and requires that a set of disclosed species be elected for prosecution on the merits, noting moreover that no claims are generic.

Applicants have submitted herewith new independent claims 32 and 33, both of which are submitted to be generic and to encompass within the respective scopes thereof the inventions as defined in independent claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 and the respective dependent claims thereof.

Accordingly, responsive to the election requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Embodiment 2, Figures 4 through 10 and list claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 32 and 33 as reading thereon.


Applicants furthermore contend that the generic claims 32 and 33 distinguish patentably over the art of record and, assuming same to remain allowable through the close for prosecution herein, request that the presently non-elected claims be reinstated for allowance herein.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: Nov. 9, 2004

By: 
H. J. Staas
Registration No. 22,010

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501